## **ABSTRACT**

## CONSTITUTIVE DISEASE RESISTANCE (CDR1) GENE AND METHODS OF USE THEREOF

Substantially purified CDR1 polypeptide, isolated polynucleotides encoding CDR1 polypeptide, vectors containing CDR1, host cells expressing CDR1, and antibodies which bind to CDR1 are all provided. The invention also provides a method of producing a genetically modified plant characterized as having increased disease resistance as compared to wild-type plants. A method is also provided for identifying novel disease resistance genes by probing a nucleic acid library with at least a fragment of a polynucleotide encoding CDR1, and selecting those clones that hybridize with the fragment.